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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING AND OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Re: Bay State Gas Company, D.T.E. 06-31

Dear Ms. Cottrell:

On July 14, 2006, Bay State Gas Company ("Bay State" or the "Company"), The Attorney General, the Utility Workers Union of America and the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union, AFL-CIO Filed a Joint Motion to Extend the tentative Deadline for a Final Order in this proceeding ("Joint Motion"). Bay State requests that the Department approve it.

However, although no date for a final order was specified in the Joint Motion, Bay State respectfully requests with this letter that the Department issue a final order by January 19, 2007, or as close to that date as possible. It is important for the Company's operations and planning that this proceeding be resolved expeditiously. The January 19 date would accommodate the tentative procedural schedules proposed by the parties and would permit the Department sufficient time to issue its order. Furthermore, January 19, 2007 is over a year from the date the issues were raised in the Department's Order in D.T.E. 05-27 on November 30, 2005.

As usual, thank you for your attention and consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

Patricia M. French

cc: A. John Sullivan, Esq., DTE
Paul Osborne, Esq., DTE
Alexander Cochis, Esq., Office of the Attorney General
Nicole Horberg Decter, Esq., for USW
Charles Harak, Esq., for UWUA
John K. Habib, Esq., for NSTAR
James Avery, Esq., for Berkshire Gas Company